

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW FLYING-SQUIRREL FROM THE PHILIPPINE
ISLANDS.

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In a collection of mammals recently received by the Field Museum of Natural History are two flying squirrels from the Philippine Island of Bancalan. This island is of small size and lies in North Balabac Straits between Balabac and Palawan. No natural history collections have been reported from it heretofore, but as indicated by its location and by the present specimens, its faunal relations are doubtless with Palawan. These specimens, although closely similar to *Sciuropterus nigripes* of Palawan, differ from it, chiefly in size, to an extent sufficient to warrant their separate recognition. Comparison has been made with four specimens of *S. nigripes* from Iwahig, Palawan, kindly loaned by the American Museum of Natural History through Dr. J. A. Allen.

***Sciuropterus nigripes elassodontus*, subsp. nov.**

Type from Bancalan Island, North Balabac Strait, Philippine Islands. No. 21,774, Field Museum of Natural History. Young adult male. Collected July 16, 1916, by C. M. Weber.

Characters.—General characters as in *Sciuropterus nigripes* Thomas;* size smaller throughout; skull and teeth relatively small.

Color of type.—Upper parts grayish hair brown overlaying a deep neutral gray basal color; top of head slightly more grayish but essentially like back; patagium rather thinly haired and colored like back; sides of nape bordered by dull grayish continuous with sides of neck and postauricular region; under parts chiefly with a neutral gray basal color overlaid by pale creamy, a few scattered and irregular areas wholly

* Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. (6), XII, p. 30, July, 1893.

cream-colored or whitish; cheeks, chin, sides of neck and front of breast dull mouse gray; ears dusky; feet brownish black; tail in proximal third wood brown slightly, or not at all, tipped with black on under side and rather broadly tipped with it, at least medially, on upper side; tail in distal two-thirds brownish black, the hairs more or less brownish fawn at their bases.

Skull and teeth.—Skull similar in general to that of *Sciuropterus nigripes*, but smaller; nasals rather contracted posteriorly and definitely exceeding premaxillae; interparietal with transverse dimension exceeding longitudinal; fronto-parietal suture acutely emarginate; front edge of coronoid process unbeaded; incisor teeth decidedly more slender than in *S. nigripes*; cheekteeth essentially as in *nigripes*, but nearly ten per cent smaller.

Measurements.—Total length, 500; tail, 250; hind foot, 45; ear, 25. Skull of type: Occipito-nasal length, 45.7; basal length, 42.5; zygomatic breadth, 28; length of nasals, 14.5; anterior breadth of nasals, 8.1; posterior (least) breadth of nasals, 3.6; length of palate, 21.5; diastema, 8.8; upper cheekteeth, 10.8; length of large premolar, 2.5.

Remarks.—The obvious derivation of the above-described form from *S. nigripes* seems to warrant its association with that species as a race. Of the two specimens examined, both have the teeth practically unworn and therefore may not represent the maximum size, but comparison has been made with specimens of *nigripes* of corresponding and less advanced stages of maturity. Aside from the present form and *S. nigripes*, the only other flying squirrel known from the Philippine Islands is *Sciuropterus crinitus* Hollister, which is from Basilan Island and is referred to a different subgenus.